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a pull-up transistor having a source coupled to a second voltage supply, a drain coupled to the source of said pass gate transistor, and a gate coupled to the output terminal of said inverter; and

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Cont'd
a resistive element coupled between said first voltage supply and the gate of said pass gate transistor, the resistive element cooperating with a parasitic capacitor defined by the drain and gate of said pass gate transistor to increase the applied voltage to the gate of said pass gate transistor.

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed February 15, 2000, claims 1-20 (all claims) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as obvious in light of any one of Fox, U.S. Patent No. 3,579,023, Nelson, U.S. Patent No. 4,507,618, and GB 1,287,021.

All claims recite a specific application of an electronic circuit configuration for the purpose of converting binary input signals with a first two levels to a binary output signal with a second two levels.


Applicant has asserted that the cited prior art does not teach nor render obvious the claims because the claims recite a circuit coupled to receive and level shift digital signals and to deliver those digital signals. The Office Action disagrees that a recitation of what the terminals of the invention are coupled to represents a structural limitation. While Applicant finds this assertion contradictory, in the interest of expediency the

claims are now amended to include the circuits to which the terminals are coupled. Such limitations are clearly structural in nature.

Applicant again wishes to point out that the cited prior art each teach RC attenuators, e.g. circuits which attenuate a signal between input and output. The claims recite a circuit which operates to pump a received input signal. Such pumping action is contrary to attenuation in that the effect of such pumping may in some circumstances actually enhance the signal between input and output terminals.

Having particularly pointed out the distinction between the cited references and the claims, allowance of all claims is respectfully requested. In the alternative, Applicants request entry of the Response to place the application in better condition for appeal.

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